

National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council Meeting

May 16-17, 2013

Executive Summary

Members in Attendance

Aarron Reinert
Arthur Cooper
Carol Cunningham
Daniel Patterson
David Lucas
Dennis Eisnach
Gary Wingrove
Jim McPartlon

John Sinclair
Jon Kuo
Joseph Wright
Katrina Altenhofen
Ken Miller
Kyle Gorman
Manuel Chavez
Marc Goldstone

Michael Hastings
Nick Nudell
Patricia Dukes
Roger Band
Scott Somers
Thomas Esposito
Thomas Judge

Federal Representatives in Attendance

Drew Dawson, Designated Federal Official

Meeting Proceedings, May 16, 2013

The National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (NEMSAC) met May 16, 2013 at the Performance Institute in Washington, D.C. The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. EDT.

Drew Dawson, Director of NHTSA's Office of EMS, informed attendees that this was the first meeting of the newly authorized advisory council. The new charter required that a chair and vice-chair be elected by the council. The council elected Aarron Reinert as chair, and Kyle Gorman as vice-chair, for the period of one year each.

Mr. Dawson introduced the council to NHTSA's new deputy administrator, David Friedman. Mr. Friedman congratulated the NEMSAC members on their appointments to the council and told the council that the NEMSAC was the only advisory council of its kind in NHTSA, making it a valuable source for public input. Mr. Friedman administered the oath of service to the council members.

Mr. Dawson noted that as part of its new statutory status, the council also now directly advises the Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS). Ed Gabriel, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) at the Department of Health and Human Services and FICEMS Chair, was introduced, discussed his background with the council, and offered his support in fulfilling the council's mission.

The minutes of the previous council meeting were approved with no changes. Mr. Reinert motioned that the council accept the work done by the previous NEMSAC to allow the continuation of the

council's work from the discretionary council to the statutory council. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Mr. Dawson announced that in an effort to increase transparency, at the beginning of each NEMSAC meeting, council members are encouraged to disclose any real or potential conflicts of interest. When assessing potential conflicts of interest, Mr. Dawson asked members to consider the following questions.

- Do you, or do work for company that directly or indirectly contracts with NHTSA, DOT, or any FICEMS member agency, and if so, under which contracts or projects?
- Do you financially benefit from NHTSA, DOT, or any FICEMS member agency?
- Are you on a board of directors, or in a position of influence, at any national organization that do business with NHTSA, DOT, or any FICEMS member agency?
- Are there any other real or potential conflicts of interest you would like to discuss?

Members were asked to indicate whether there had been changes in their conflict status as reflected in the previous meeting's minutes:

Mr. Sinclair said that he had been cycled off the board of directors of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and that there was no longer a real or perceived conflict. Dennis Eisnach was not present in the first day, but said that he had no conflicts. Thomas Judge made a correction to the previous minutes, saying that it was the Lifeflight of Maine that had a 20 year contract with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The remaining members had no changes.

Mr. Dawson and Mr. Smith gave a presentation on transitioning to a Statutory Advisory Committee, explaining the differences between a discretionary and statutory council.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Dawson read through the Description of Duties from the Charter and advised the council that because the bylaws are still being worked on, it would be best to temporarily adopt the previous bylaws and code of conduct. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

DOT, DHS, HHS and other federal partners presented the current status of their EMS work for the federal partner update. Mr. Dawson presented for DOT, providing updates on several ongoing projects, including the EMS workforce data definitions, the White House veteran credentialing initiative for EMS, the Emerging Issues white papers, statewide implementation of evidence-based practice guidelines, the helicopter EMS guidelines document, and the 9-1-1 program's bi-monthly webinars.

Bill Seifarth, the branch chief for the Medical First Responders Coordination branch, gave the update for DHS. He discussed DHS's fusion centers, the Blue Campaign, and a contract recently awarded to NASEMSO to draft model language for interstate EMS licensure portability.

Gregg Margolis from ASPR provided the update for HHS. Mr. Margolis told the council about restructuring at ASPR, a CDC/ASTHO collaborative effort on developing and seeking feedback on a national health security preparedness index, and an ECCC/CDC effort on bystander intervention.

Mike Stern presented for the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA). The USFA has begun to provide advanced policy and management EMS training as opposed to clinical and operational courses. The most recent courses have been on advanced EMS quality assurance programs.

Theresa Morrison-Quinata presented for HRSA's EMS for Children Program. She provided the council with updates on the Pediatric Readiness Project, the EMS Reassessment, EMSC's targeted issues funding opportunity on pre-hospital research, and the Regionalization of Pediatric Emergency Care project.

The values committee, led by Patricia Dukes, was tasked with compiling a list of core values that would help NEMSAC better consider its recommendations. After discussing the document, Ms. Dukes thanked the council for its comments, and told the council that she and her committee would make revisions for the document to be considered the next day.

Mr. Gorman presented for the process committee and explained that the committee was tasked with developing an efficient process by which the council conducts its work. He informed the council that the timeline for the document now was to bring it forward for a first reading at the next meeting, and then to have it undergo a second review.

Dr. Cooper suggested that the document be recognized as a work in progress. Mr. Reinert suggested that the council not move forward with the document yet, as he anticipated public input, especially on the topic of giving the public materials in advance of the meeting.

Jim McPartlon presented the advisory for the leadership committee. He said that the committee tried to capture the intent and comments of the council members from the last meeting. The committee focused more on leadership development as opposed to training and education. It also incorporated experience and the development of mentoring programs. The document's recommendations remained the same. After a discussion on the document, the committee agreed to revise the document for consideration the next day.

Dan Manz presented a progress report on the EMS Education Agenda for the Future. He told the council that NASEMSO led the development of the National EMS Scope of Practice Model and took the lead in coordinating implementation of the EMS Education Agenda within the states. During 2012 the work group focused on looking at common licensure requirements, observing whether the state requires a person to pass different types of examinations, whether there are required fees, or whether the state conducts a background check, among many other things.

Mr. Dawson introduced the council to Rich Serino, Deputy Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Mr. Serino said that the country is currently looking at a paradigm shift in EMS. He told the council that he was in Boston on the day of the marathon bombing, and was on the finish line minutes before the first explosion. He was impressed by how individuals responded to the crisis, and felt that the government needed to look at how EMS and the public handle such events in the future. He told the council that the application of direct pressure and tourniquets was important, and felt that the public needed to be taught when to run, and when to come back and give assistance to the injured, and asked for the council's thoughts, which they provided.

Next was a public comment period. A member of the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) thanked the council for addressing the issue of the Education Agenda for the Future, and asked that the IAFF be a part of the process.

Mr. Gorman asked the public attendees to share their thoughts on how to improve public input. The representative from the IAFF felt that the timing of the public comment period was of great importance.

Jeff Lucia from Red Flash Group said that the public comment period was a great opportunity to build a sense of community.

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The second day of the NEMSAC meeting began at 8:00 a.m. EDT.

The values committee presented first, having made suggested changes from the previous day's discussion. After a brief discussion, Mr. Reinert asked the public for any feedback on the document. There was none. Ms. Dukes told the council that she wished to clean up the document before it is considered a final draft. Mr. Sinclair motioned for the document to be approved and for Ms. Dukes to make grammatical and formatting changes. The motion was seconded and passed.

Mr. McPartlon presented the leadership committee's advisory. He noted that recommendations 4 and 5 had been removed, and changes had been made to recommendation 3. After much discussion, a motion was placed to accept the advisory as final with edits. The motion was approved.

Dr. Cooper then presented the Education Agenda questions document. He noted that all edits made overnight were for clarity, and were not substantive. After further minor edits, Dr. Cooper moved that the document be accepted as a formal response. The motion was approved.

Mr. Reinert told the council that the process committee and values committee were continuing their work, and that one of the next steps would be the questions on the Education Agenda. Dr. Cooper said that he would be happy to take on the task, and asked that members review the Education Agenda and see if there are any specific issues in terms of content that required an update. He said that he felt that not much needed to be changed and that the process should not take long. Mr. Dawson suggested that, given the importance and visibility of the project, a work plan be developed.

During another public comment period, Dia Gainor, the Executive Director at NASEMSO, said that she was concerned about a series of references made, which co-mingled the goals of the council, recommendation to the Secretary of Transportation, and recommendations to NHTSA. She said that they were unique and distinct entities, and she asked that members consider this. She also thanked NHTSA for posting meeting materials in a timely manner.

Returning to the business of the council, Mr. Eisnach voiced concern that EMS does not have a good advocate representing it in the changing arena of health care.

Mr. Reinert agreed with the need to consider health care reform, and he was hoping to create a list of things NEMSAC could work on, which so far consisted of work on the Education Agenda, Mr. Serino's concerns, and evidence based guideline next steps. Mr. Judge suggested work on the Culture of Safety Strategy document.

After further discussion, the council settled on work of three committees, one on a Future Agenda document, chaired by Patricia Dukes, one on the Culture of Safety document's implementation led by Daniel Patterson, and one on EMS and health reform, led by John Sinclair. Mr. Reinert asked any members interested in serving on the councils to tell him. Mr. Dawson informed the council that they had the ability to recruit a limited number of non-members to the committees. Chairs should notify Mr. Reinert, and keep in mind that the number of non-council members cannot exceed the number of members.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. EDT.